

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a classroom. The left half of the image is covered by a semi-transparent blue overlay. In the background, a clock is mounted on a blue wall. Below it, a white rectangular box contains the title text. The right half of the image shows a white wall with a whiteboard, a shelf with a potted plant, a globe, and a microscope, and rows of wooden desks with blue chairs.

# RURAL COMMUNITY POINT OF PRESENCE BLUEPRINT

RIVERSIDE LOCAL SCHOOL  
DISTRICT PILOT

BroadbandOhio

INNOVATE**hio**

Mike DeWine, Governor | Jon Husted, Lt. Governor and Director



# Table of Contents

- 1** Riverside Local School District Project Background..... 3
- 2** Timeline ..... 4
- 3** Checklist for Establishing a Community Point of Presence..... 4







## 1 Riverside Local School District Project Background

On July 28, 2020, Lt. Governor Jon Husted announced the [BroadbandOhio Connectivity Grant](#). The Lt. Governor announced that the state will set aside \$50 million of state funding through the federal [CARES Act](#) to provide hotspots and internet-enabled devices to students for purchases made between July 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. The Ohio Department of Education, in collaboration with BroadbandOhio, provided Ohio schools and Education Service Centers with the opportunity to apply for these funds through the [BroadbandOhio Connectivity Grant](#). The grant application portal was open from August 10 through August 21, 2020. Grants were reviewed and awardees were notified on September 2, 2020.

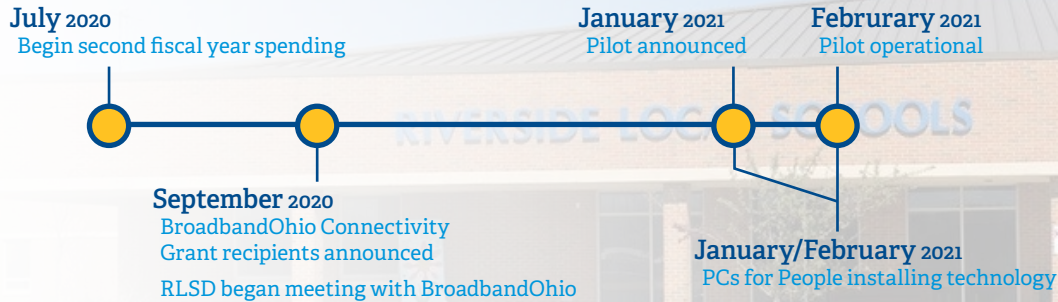
Riverside Local School District (RLSD) was awarded \$121,172.93 in funding through the grant program. RLSD used part of its grant funding to provide hotspots on school buses that drive around the community, offering a place for students to do homework if internet is not available in their homes. Additionally, RLSD approached the DeWine-Husted Administration through BroadbandOhio about utilizing grant dollars to fund infrastructure that would not only provide high-speed internet access at the school and to the students but serve the local community as well.

BroadbandOhio, in partnership with InnovateOhio, collaborated with OARnet, WOCO (Western Ohio Computer Organization), and PCs for People to utilize fixed wireless technology on school property to bring high-speed internet access to approximately 600 households in three surrounding towns: Logansville, De Graff, and Quincy. The innovative approach uses the school's infrastructure through OARnet to broadcast a wireless signal out to the surrounding communities through an antenna situated on a pole that overlooks the district's high school.

Subscribers will pay a low upfront fee for a router and then a low monthly fee of \$15. RLSD is also subsidizing the cost of some units to help low-income households. The speed of internet is twice that of the federal minimum definition of high-speed internet, providing an important opportunity for students to do their schoolwork remotely and families to work from home.

The guidelines outlined in this document result from the pilot project with Riverside Local School District. **This blueprint is intended to be a living document that is updated as the pilot progresses.**

## 2 Timeline



## 3 Checklist for Establishing a Community Point of Presence

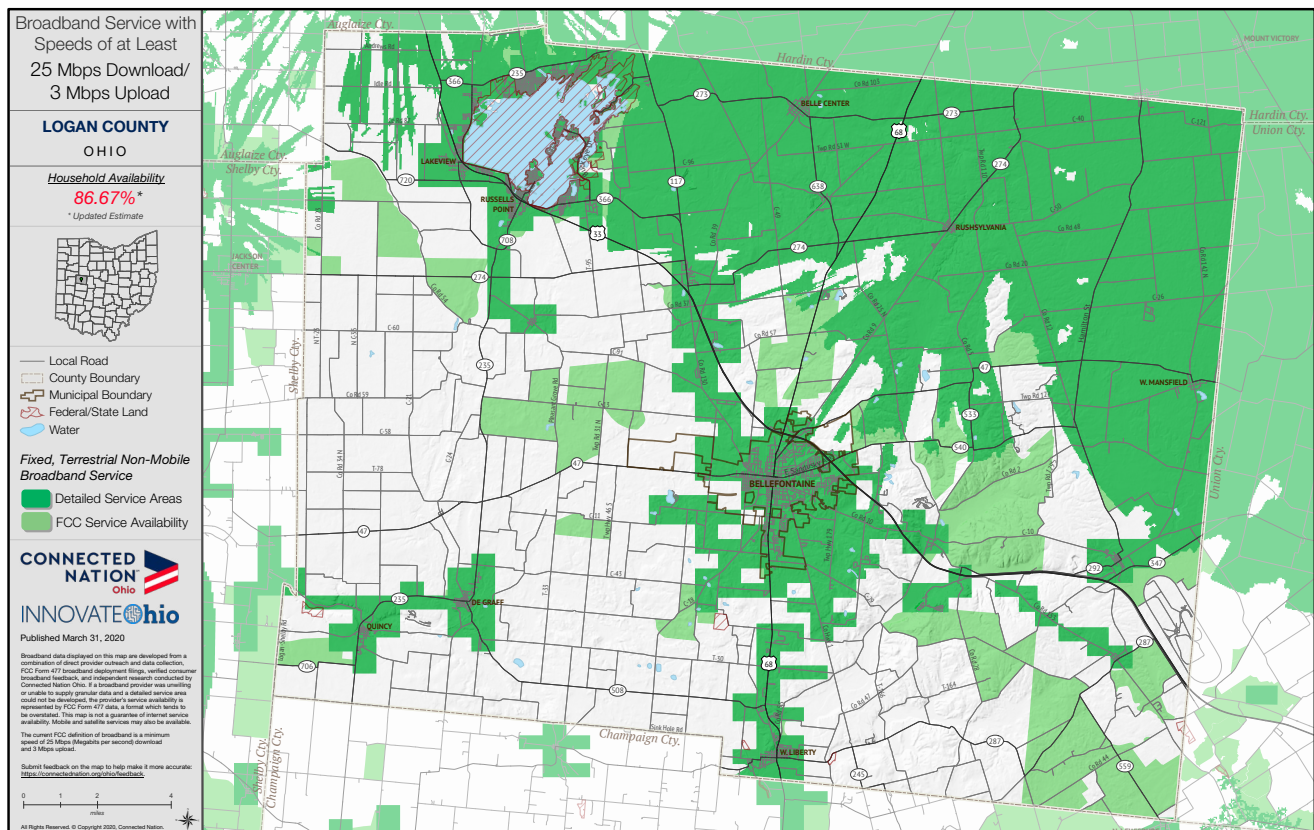
### 3.01 What is a Point of Presence?

A point of presence (PoP) is the local access point that allows users to connect to the internet through an internet service provider (ISP) connected to the PoP.

### 3.02 Why Should My Area Consider a Community Point of Presence Project?

#### 1. Do you have robust internet in the community?

13.33% of Logan County is unserved, meaning it does not have access to the federal definition of broadband service with speeds of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Most of the unserved areas are located in the western and southwestern parts of the county, which includes the three towns served in the pilot (Logansville, De Graff, and Quincy).





### 3.04 Identify Partners

#### 1. Do you have an existing partner for the services you want to provide?

RLSD, along with most K-12 districts around the state, are connected by OARnet, one of the most advanced statewide telecommunications networks. RLSD and the State were able to use this existing partner to implement the pilot.

#### 2. Who initiated the project?

RLSD approached BroadbandOhio seeking to implement technologies that would bring high speed internet to both students and homes in surrounding communities.

#### 3. Are there other organizations to partner with?

RLSD partnered with the following organizations to implement the pilot project:

**BroadbandOhio**, a statewide office dedicated to improving access to high-speed internet across Ohio. BroadbandOhio focuses on implementing the Ohio Broadband Strategy and is the point of contact for all broadband projects in Ohio. The office is charged with identifying high-priority initiatives and ensure their completion, as well as serving as a liaison among state agencies to implement the goals of the state in expanding access and supporting Ohioans who have been left without access.

**InnovateOhio**, an office led by Lt. Governor Jon Husted with a mission to make Ohio the most innovative, creative, and entrepreneurial state in the Midwest. InnovateOhio focuses on improving the customer experience for state services, streamlining Ohio through shared services, and using technology to lift all Ohioans.

**Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet)**, a dedicated, statewide, high-speed fiber-optic network that serves Ohio K-12 schools, college and university campuses, academic medical centers, public broadcasting stations and state and local/state government. OARnet is considered one of the most advanced statewide telecommunications networks dedicated to research, education and economic competitiveness in the nation.

**Management Council**, the coordinating and supporting body for the collaborative efforts of the Ohio Education Computer Network (OECN) comprised of school districts, ITCs and ESCs to implements a broad spectrum of academic and administrative technologies across Ohio's PreK-12 education system.



**WOCO, the Information Technology Center (ITC)** serving western Ohio school districts to provide information systems, connectivity, and resources to meet the current and future needs of their districts by supplying the technology solution to support their goals.

**PCs for People**, a national non-profit organization, with a local Cleveland chapter, that centers on getting low-cost computers and affordable broadband internet into the homes of low-income individuals. PCs for People wipes all data, refurbishes, and then distributes digital devices to low-income households. The devices donated will be repurposed and distributed to eligible, low-income families across Ohio who are in need of an affordable internet-enabled device.

#### 4. How was PCs for people chosen?

In December 2020, Lt. Governor Jon Husted along with Matt Damschroder, Director of the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, and Lydia Mihalik, Director of the Ohio Development Services Agency, announced that the State of Ohio donated a surplus of 148 computers to PCs for People to help more Ohioans afford and obtain an internet-enabled device that is suitable for working and learning. Since the State had an existing relationship with PCs for People, BroadbandOhio and InnovateOhio introduced PCs for People to the school district. RLSD was able to enter into a contract with PCs for people using their procurement methodology and there were no dollars from a state agency involved in the project.



### 3.05 Project Design

#### 1. How was the pilot funded?

RLSD was awarded \$121,172.93 in funding through the BroadbandOhio Connectivity Grant (CARES Act) and utilized those dollars to implement the pilot. The school district also received in-kind contributions from partners.

#### 2. What is PCs for People's role in providing high-speed internet access?

PCs for People offers low-cost internet access utilizing fixed wireless technology. Fixed wireless internet is an option that connects a location to the internet via radio waves. PCs for People allows eligible customers to purchase routers to access its fixed wireless technology for high-speed internet.

#### 3. Do you have tall vertical assets?

Fixed wireless technologies require vertical assets with clear lines of sight in order to reach an appropriate height to broadcast a wide signal. These assets may range from tall buildings, radio towers, water tanks, and other features. RLSD and PCs for People initially identified light poles at the high school football stadium as the appropriate vertical assets to attach the fixed wireless technology. However, these lights were older and documentation with their exact specifications did not exist. Installing the fixed wireless technology on them could present a hazard. With the challenges on the stadium lights, RLSD and PCs for People identified a 30-foot pole at a cemetery on the top of a hill overlooking the high school.

#### 4. What was installed?

Antenna, Community PoP inside of the press box, fiber running from the school to the press box, with fiber to OARnet equipment located at the school building.

#### 5. Who did the actual physical installation?

PCs for People and the local utility.

#### 6. Who provided the installation piece?

PCs for People provided the fixed wireless technology.

#### 7. How is the pilot leveraging the school district's existing high-speed internet connection?

In initial discussions with RLSD, it was believed that existing internet access (provided by WOCO) could also be used to accommodate the project. However, as the school district participates in the e-rate program, it cannot set aside existing E-rate eligible bandwidth for a non-E-rate purpose per the program limitation. However, the school district can increase the bandwidth through the WOCO circuit, outside of the E-rate structure, allowing PCs for People to have access to the internet capabilities necessary to broadcast the signal to the surrounding communities.

#### 8. How do homes connect to what was installed?

Households within range can subscribe with PCs for People to purchase a modem for a low upfront fee. This modem connects to the wireless signal to provide high-speed internet access

#### 9. What is the estimated reach of the project?

Up to 600 households in the communities of Logansville, De Graff, and Quincy are within range to receive service.

#### 10. What speeds will subscribers receive?

Subscribers will receive speeds estimated at 50 Mbps download and 5 Mbps upload, which is about double the speed of the federal definition of high-speed internet.

### 3.06 Project Administration

#### 1. Who administers the back-end billing?

PCs for People runs the entire back office and households will subscribe with them. Subscribers are not required to enter into a contract.

#### 2. How did we negotiate funding?

The price was set directly from PCs for People in consultation with Riverside School District.

#### 3. Can other competitors participate?

Yes, while PCs for People was selected for the pilot, it is not the sole provider.

#### 4. Where will the backhaul come from?

OARnet in conjunction with WOCO.

#### 5. What is the cost to the community?

PCs for People charges subscribers \$15 per month. Subscribers must also pay a small upfront fee for an in-home modem. RLSD is subsidizing the cost of some units to help low-income households.

#### 6. Is there any additional benefit to the school district?

The school district will receive a certain number of in-home modems to use on the system.

#### 7. Do any cybersecurity measures exist?

PCs for People takes reasonable precautions and follows ISP industry best practices to make sure that personal information is not inappropriately lost, misused, accessed, disclosed, altered or destroyed.

Credit card information is encrypted using secure socket layer technology (SSL) and stored with encryption. Although no method of transmission over the Internet or electronic storage is 100% secure, PCs for People follows all PCI-DSS requirements and implements additional generally accepted industry standards.

